

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 101938
ORIGIN EA-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 101938

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ETEL, KN, US, CH

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN INTEREST IN U.S. SATELLITE
COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

1. JEFF TORNBERG, OF ENTERTAINMENT CAPITAL CORPORATION,
NEW YORK, CALLED DEPARTMENT APRIL 19 TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE
POSSIBILITY OF ACTING AS A BROKER FOR THE SALE OF U.S.
SATELLITE GROUND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TO NORTH KOREA.
TORNBERG SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED WHILE ON A TRIP
TO HONG KONG AND ASKED IF HE COULD FACILITATE THE SALE
OF "THE SAME SORT OF EQUIPMENT THAT PRESIDENT NIXON TOOK
TO PEKING AND LEFT AS A GIFT" (SIC). HE SAID THAT HIS
CONTACT IN HONG KONG HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE CHINESE WOULD
PAY FOR THE EQUIPMENT ON NORTH KOREA'S BEHALF, SINCE
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PYONGYANG LACKED ADEQUATE FUNDS AT THIS TIME.

2. TORNBERG SAID THAT COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT IS NOT HIS
NORMAL LINE OF BUSINESS, BUT HE THOUGHT HE WOULD INQUIRE
ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF A SALE OUT OF CURIOSITY.
DEPARTMENT OFFICER SAID THAT CONTINUING EMBARGO ON TRADE
WITH NORTH KOREA WOULD MAKE SUCH A SALE UNLIKELY AND

REFERRED HIM TO TREASURY DEPARTMENT AND FOREIGN ASSETS
CONTROL REGULATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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